

From: joeike1
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 2:57pm
Subject: Pubic Comment

I desired to get a signed copy of my comments to you concerning the Microsoft case and requested Mail-Etc to send a FAX to you but they have reported difficulties in establishing a connection. To assure that my comments will arrive in a timely manner I am sending them as an attachment to this e-mail. Mail-Etc will continue to send a FAX and if they succeed there will be a duplication of documents in your files.

Thank you!

Joe G. Ike

**3410 76th Avenue, SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040-3439**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to you today to encourage you to bring the litigation against Microsoft to an immediate and decisive closure. I must state that I have been unequivocally and strongly against this case from its very inception. It appears evident to me that it is very unfair to punish a company for excelling in their industry. I am a volunteer instructor with a non-profit organization teaching senior citizens how to enrich their lives by becoming computer literate. This is no easy task but at the close of every session I thank God that Microsoft has been so innovative and far sighted as to integrate their basic Operating System with applications to provide the User with a basis of commonality that makes the learning process infinitely easier. This applies not only to senior citizens but also to those individuals learning the use of new software to increase their knowledge and consequently leading to industrial efficiency. Prior to my retirement I vividly remember the days when it was a nightmare when attempting to home-brew our own integrated system. I have experienced the fact that Microsoft has expended every effort to provide us with the features that we sorely needed.

As I dwell upon the past three years I conclude that it must have been very taxing on the IT industry, the economy, Microsoft and its employees. I understand that Microsoft has spent millions of dollars in their defense--money that could have been put into the development of new products resulting in further advancement of technology and industrial efficiency. The employees of Microsoft have had to endure an air of uncertainty during this entire situation. As a citizen I am extremely concerned with the possible flight of talent that is the backbone of Microsoft's awesome capability.

It is difficult for me to understand the problems related to the proposed, but rejected, settlement. Judging from what the media has reported, Microsoft has agreed to the terms included in the settlement as well as to the terms brought forth on issues that were not considered to be unlawful. To name two concessions, Microsoft has agreed to avoid agreements that would obligate any third party to exclusively distribute Windows technology. Additionally, Microsoft will not obligate software developers to refrain from developing competing software. Frankly, I personally cannot understand why Microsoft should have to divulge the code that makes up their Operating System. I would certainly

include that in the realm of being proprietary and intellectual property. To put it more strongly, to me it smacks of being a case of sour grapes by certain other organizations that have not been as successful.

Chairman Greenspan commented, with words to the effect, that the Guide-On that is going to lead the *economy of our nation* out of the doldrums is technology. It is our future. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Microsoft has been a major contributor to technology. As a result, and to reiterate, I personally would like to see this matter closed as soon as possible and I am sure that I am among many who share this same point of view. Thank you for your time and giving me this opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

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